

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A method for wrapping in a sheet of material a food product comprising at least two complementary parts coupled together along a coupling line, comprising the steps of:

- forming the ~~this~~ wrapper in at least two complementary parts which can be joined together along a respective connection line, said at least two complementary parts being shaped to generally complement an external shape of said product,

- positioning the said product in the said wrapper, with said at least two complementary parts of said food product being aligned, but uncoupled or coupled together substantially freely, along a coupling line extending around a periphery of said product, such that said complementary parts of said product can be substantially freely separated, and with said connection line extending around a periphery of said product while at least a portion of said coupling line is ensuring that the said coupling line is offset with regard to the respective connection line so as to inhibit relative sliding of the parts of said food product within said wrapper due to said offset ~~of between the said two parts, with the said two parts of the product being coupled substantially freely, and~~

- closing the said wrapper around the said product along the said respective connection line.

Claim 2. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, comprising the steps of:

- selecting one of the said parts of the product,
- forming one part of the two said parts of the wrapper corresponding thereto and introducing the said selected part of the product into the said one part of the wrapper so that at least part the said one part of the wrapper projects beyond the selected part of the product,
- joining the other of the said two parts to the selected part along the said connection line substantially freely, with relative movement between the selected part and the other part being prevented by the projecting portion of the wrapper part, and
- forming at least one further part of the said wrapper, joining it to the said first part of the wrapper along the respective connection line.

Claim 3. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, comprising the steps of:

- forming a first part of the said wrapper defining the said respective connection line,

- introducing the product into the said first part of the wrapper with the said parts of the product coupled together substantially freely with the said coupling line angularly offset relative to the said connection line, and

- closing the said wrapper around the said product at the respective connection line.

Claim 4. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the said offset effect is achieved by forming at least one of the coupling line and the connection line as a wavy line.

Claim 5. (Original) A method according to Claim 2, comprising the steps of:

- making the said part of the wrapper generally concave so that the said projecting portion of the wrapper is substantially a collar able to surround and project from the said selected part of the product.

Claim 6. (Original) A method according to Claim 5, comprising the steps of:

- making the said product in two identical, complementary parts, and
- making the wrapper in two parts as well, with one part being larger than the other.

Claim 7. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, comprising the operations of forming the said parts of the said wrapper as portions of sheet material having respective flanged edges which jointly define a respective connection line.

Claim 8. (Original) A method according to Claim 7, wherein the said two wrapper parts are joined along their respective connection line in an operation selected from ultrasonic welding, heat welding and gluing.

Claim 9. (Cancelled).

Claim 10. (Cancelled).

Claim 11. (Cancelled).

Claim 12. (Cancelled).

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) A method for wrapping in a sheet of material a food product comprising at least two complementary parts coupled together along a coupling line, comprising the steps of:

- forming the wrapper in at least two complementary parts which can be joined together along a respective connection line, said at least two complementary parts being shaped to generally complement an external shape of said product,

- selecting one of the said parts of the product,
- introducing the said selected part of the product into the said one part of the wrapper corresponding thereto so that at least part the said one part of the wrapper forms a projection portion that projects beyond the selected part of the product;

- joining the other of the said two parts of the product to the selected part along a coupling line extending around a periphery of said product in a manner that said complementary parts of said product can be separated ~~the said connection line~~ substantially freely, with said coupling line being offset with respect to said connection line, and with relative movement between the selected part and the other part being prevented by the projecting portion of the wrapper part; and

- joining at least one further part of the said wrapper to the said first part of the wrapper along the respective connection line.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 13, comprising the steps of:

- forming a first part of the said wrapper defining the said respective connection line,

- introducing the product into the said first part of the wrapper with the said parts of the product coupled together substantially freely with the said coupling line angularly offset relative to the said connection line, and

- closing the said wrapper around the said product at the respective connection line.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 13, wherein the said offset effect is achieved by forming at least one of the coupling line and the connection line as a wavy line.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 13, comprising the steps of:

- making the said part of the wrapper generally concave so that the said projecting portion of the wrapper is substantially a collar able to surround and project from the said selected part of the product.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 16, comprising the steps of:

- making the said product in two identical, complementary parts, and
- making the wrapper in two parts as well, with one part being larger than the other.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 13, comprising the operations of forming the said parts of the said wrapper as portions of sheet material having respective flanged edges which jointly define a respective connection line.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 18, wherein the said two wrapper parts are joined along their respective connection line in an operation selected from ultrasonic welding, heat welding and gluing.